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SUBJECT Further Details on the Food Situation in the Russian Zone

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1. Renewed and thorough study of the food situation by the various state governments disclosed the impossibility of carrying out the agricultural program in its entirety, i.e., that it would be possible to cultivate only seventy to eighty per cent of the planned acreage. The German Economic Commission, for the first time, took part in the negotiations with the SMA Central Office for Agriculture in Potsdam, and presented the case so convincingly that the SMA cancelled the debt of seed goods which it had loaned in 1947 for planting.
2. Consequently 180,000 tons of grains, 8,000 tons of oil seeds, 530,000 tons of potatoes, and 280,000 tons of sugar beets have been released by the SMA for seeding purposes, although great difficulties will be encountered in the collection and transportation of these items. Mecklenburg, in particular, has received strict orders to requisition all available quantities and turn them over to other states. In addition, a seed-purchasing campaign has been started and a premium of textiles and shoes was offered to farmers who contribute to it. They were also told that the quantities now released would be deducted from their next delivery quota at the rate of 10:12.
3. The state organization "Volkskontrolle" was ordered to inform the population that potato rations will be replaced by salted vegetables and turnips from May to July, and that until further notice sugar will be supplied instead of fat rations. In Saxony, meat rations will be replaced by fish and skimmed-milk cheese, and, whenever possible, by eggs.
4. Major Brussov, chief of the Allotment Section for Food, requested that the plan determining the acreage to be cultivated be re-examined thoroughly to make sure that for this period no areas are included which, for one reason or another, cannot be cultivated, or for which no seeds are available. This request is the result of many complaints received from new settlers who were imprisoned because for no fault of their own, they were unable to meet the quota requirements.

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